

A special budget meeting of the Royal Oak City Commission was held on Monday, May 16, 2016, in the city hall, 211 Williams, Royal Oak. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ellison at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL
Mayor
Mayor Pro Tem
Commissioners

PRESENT
Ellison
Fournier
Douglas
DuBuc
Mahrle
Paruch
Poulton

ABSENT

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PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present who wished to speak.

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REQUEST TO AMEND MAY 24, 2016 TOWN HALL MEETING SITE

Moved by Commissioner Mahrle
Seconded by Commissioner Poulton

Be it resolved, the city commission authorizes the administration to move the "town hall" meeting on May 24, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. to Churchill Community Education Center to present the Royal Oak City Center development proposal and to provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions about the proposal.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

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BUDGET TRANSMITTAL LETTER

City Manager Johnson stated it was a status quo budget. Decisions need to be looked at long term. They are taking steps to deal with unfunded liabilities. The \$3.5 million they expected to save wasn't included in the budget. He wanted to put half in the two trust funds for pension and OPEB.

He also wanted to use part of the money to pay for the civic center project. They will probably be asked to help pay for plan development. They would like to get plan ownership, which would be more important for the police department and the park than for city hall.

There are two critical millage renewals on the horizon. With the change to single stream recycling they expected to levy the full millage. Recycling was expected to increase by 50%. The public safety millage wasn't expiring this year but they wanted to put it on the November ballot.

They completed the initial Disney Way training and formed teams charged with improving customer service and employee morale. They started with things that could be accomplished quickly, easily and inexpensively. Eventually, they'd be making recommendations that would cost real money. Some of those could have significant budget impact in the future. If so it would be brought to the commission.

The commission approved a bid of \$3.8 million and signed a purchase agreement with Robertson Brothers to build housing on part of the Normandy Oaks site. The remainder of the site will be developed as a park. All the money from the sale will go into the development of that park and to other parks.

The 44th district court successfully completed merging with the Berkley court. They also combined two cost centers. The new court administration has increased collection efforts.

There are very few new positions in the budget. They budgeted to move the day porter position from a contracted position through the janitorial contract to a regular city position. They also put in a full-time GIS coordinator. They had a request for a full-time appraiser but limited that to a part-timer.

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BUDGET OVERVIEW

Director of Finance Rudd gave a brief overview of the budget. Approval of the budget was scheduled for the June 13th meeting.

Mayor Ellison left table at 6:44 p.m. and returned at 6:45 p.m.

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GENERAL FUND OVERVIEW

The general fund is the city's major operating fund. Revenue is budgeted to decrease 2.3% and expenditures are budgeted to increase 7%.

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GENERAL FUND DEPARTMENT BUDGETS

Ms. Rudd went over the individual budgets.

Commissioner Poulton asked for an update on the Retail Coach contract.

Commissioner DuBuc left table at 7:30 p.m. and returned at 7:32 p.m.

Mayor Ellison requested a breakdown of the Starr house budget.

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PUBLIC SAFETY FUND

Fiscal year 2016-17 will be the last year of the millage. A similar or larger sized funding source is anticipated to be necessary after the millage expires.

They will be replacing two of the ambulances.

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OTHER FUNDS

The solid waste millage expires at the end of the 2016-17 fiscal year. A renewal will be on the August 2016 ballot. The contract with Rizzo also expires at the end of 2016-17. As part of the new contract SOCERRA wants to go to single stream recycling.

The library millage is budgeted to decrease due to the Headlee rollback. They are trying to reach "enhanced level" services including re-opening on Tuesday and Thursday mornings to increase the number of hours to 60.

State construction code is expected to remain flat. There could be some changes due to discontinuing performing work for Beverly Hills and Southfield Twp.

Mayor Ellison announced that he would be unable to attend the May 17 meeting and that Mayor Pro Tem Fournier would be running the meeting in his absence.

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Upon motion of Commissioner Mahrle, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fournier, and adopted unanimously, the special budget meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Melanie Halas, City Clerk

The foregoing minutes of the special budget meeting held on May 16, 2016, having been officially approved by the city commission on Monday, June 13, 2016, are hereby signed this thirteenth day of June 2016.

James B. Ellison, Mayor